

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00104 01 OF 02 241705Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-08 IO-13 /097 W
-----241728Z 024545 /65

R 241525Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7196
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MADRID

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 VALLETTA 0104

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT, SP,

SUBJECT: SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO MALTA

REF: MADRID 0359, 0293,

1. SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA AND HIS DELEGATION
MADE THEIR JANUARY 21-22 OFFICIAL TO MALTA AS SCHEDULED,
ARRIVING FRIDAY EVENING AND LEAVING EARLY SATURDAY
AFTERNOON.

2. AS IS CUSTOMARY WITH SUCH VISITS HERE, FOREIGN
MINISTER OREJA WAS RUSHED DIRECTLY FROM THE AIRPORT
OF FRIDAY EVENING TO A FORMAL MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER
MINTOFF. LATER HE WAS ENTERTAINED AT DINNER BY MALTESE
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PAGE 02 VALLET 00104 01 OF 02 241705Z

PRESIDENT DR. ANTON BUTTIGIEG AT SAN ANTON PALACE.
SATURDAY MORNING WAS TAKEN UP WITH SIGHT-SEEING TOURS

OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL, THE PALACE AND THE NATIONAL MUSEUM
IN VALLETTA, AND THE (ALMOST OBLIGATORY) TOUR OF MALTA'S
LARGEST INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENT, THE PARA-STATAL MALTA
DRYDOCKS CORPORATION. THEN, FOLLOWING A LUNCHEON GIVEN

BY GOM MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT WISTIN ABELA, THE SPANISH DELEGATION LEFT TO RETURN TO MADRID.

3. THEIR DEPARTURE WAS MARRED BY A SLIGHT ACCIDENT WHILE THE MOTORCADE WAS EN ROUTE TO THE AIRPORT. THE CAR CARRYING FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA WAS FORCED TO STOP SUD- DENLY (TO AVOID A WHEEL WHICH CAME OFF A TRUCK GOING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION), AND ONE OF THE POLICE MOTOR CYCLE ESCORTS RAN INTO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S CAR. THE POLICEMAN WAS INJURED, BUT THERE WERE NO REPORTED INJURIES TO ANY MEMBERS OF THE SPANISH DELEGATION.

4. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO MALTA, THE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE WAS RELEASED BY THE GOM DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION.

BEGIN TEXT:

"JOINT COMMUNIQUE

"AT THE INVITATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. DOM MINTOFF, DON MARCELINO OREJA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SPAIN, PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO MALTA BETWEEN THE 21ST AND 22ND JANUARY, 1977. DURING HIS STAY HE WAS THE GUEST OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA, DR. ANTON BUTTIGIEG.

"THE TWO MINISTERS HAD A WIDE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS.

"THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE SPANISH DELEGATION ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE TALKS:

DON CARLOS ROBLES PIQUER AMBASSADOR OF SPAIN TO MALTA
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PAGE 03 VALLET 00104 01 OF 02 241705Z

DON RAFAEL MARQUEZ DIRECTOR-GENERAL DIPLOMATIC
INFORMATION OFFICE

DON JORGE DEL PINO DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
POLITICAL AFFAIRS - EUROPE

DON LUIS JORDANA DE POZAS MINISTER COUNSELLOR OF THE
EMBASSY OF SPAIN TO MALTA

DON JAVIER REPRREZ CHIEF OF CABINET TO THE MIN-
ISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DON CARLOS SPOTTORNO FIRST SECRETARY OF THE
SPANISH EMBASSY TO MALTA

"THE MALTESE SIDE INCLUDED ALSO:

THE HON L. SANT MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND SPORTS

THE HON. WISTIN ABELA MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT,
ENERGY, PORT AND TELECOM-
MUNICATIONS

THE HON. PH. MUSCAT MINISTER OF EDUCATION

DR. E. MIZZI ATTORNEY GENERAL

MR. THOMAS P. SAMMUT L A/SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MR. S. DEMARCO PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE
PRIME MINISTER

"THE DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD IN A VERY WARM AND
FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND COVERED ALSO BILATERAL RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH SHARE COMMON HISTORICAL AND
GEOGRAPHICAL TIES. PARTICULAR REFERENCE WAS MADE TO THE
ROLE PLAYED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES TO ENHANCE PEACE IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN.

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00104 02 OF 02 241703Z
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AMEMBASSY MADRID

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 VALLETTA 0104

"THE TWO SIDES, WHILST REAFFIRMING THE VIEW THAT
THERE CAN BE NO REAL PEACE IN EUROPE UNLESS THERE WAS
PEACE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND THEIR DESIRE TO TURN THE
MEDITERRANEAN INTO A ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION IN
ACCORDANCE WITH U.N. RESOLUTION 31/92, AGREED TO WORK
CLOSELY TOGETHER FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THIS GOAL. THEY
ALSO AGREED TO MAKE EVERY ENDEAVOUR, AT THE FORTHCOMING
BELGRADE MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE, TO WORK TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE

TO THE QUESTIONS RELATING TO SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. THEY PARTICULARLY EMPHASISED THE NECESSITY OF EUROPEAN-ARAB COOPERATION.

"THE TWO SIDES EXAMINED THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 VALLET 00104 02 OF 02 241703Z

JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE REGION WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

"THE SPANISH SIDE VIEWED SYMPATHETICALLY THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALTA IN ITS EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE INDEPENDENCE OF MALTA AND FOR ITS DETERMINATION TO PURSUE A POLICY OF NEUTRALITY AND NON-ALIGNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE AND OF ACTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN MEDITERRANEAN STATES.

"THE MALTESE SIDE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AND APPRECIATION FOR THE ASSISTANCE EXTENDED BY SPAIN TO MALTA AND MADE SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CONSOLIDATION AND EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE SPANISH SIDE AGREED TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE MALTESE PROPOSALS. THEY ALSO AGREED ON SPECIFIC MEASURES OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

"THE TWO SIDES ALSO AGREED TO INTENSIFY EXCHANGES IN THE CULTURAL FIELD WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING THE COMMON CULTURAL VALUES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION.

"THE MALTA SIDE EXPRESSED ITS APPRECIATION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL REFORM BEING CARRIED BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT.

"THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SPAIN EXPRESSED HIS SINCERE THANKS AND WARM APPRECIATION FOR THE CORDIAL WELCOME AND FRIENDLY HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO HIM AND TO HIS DELEGATION. JANUARY 22, 1977." END TEXT
END UNCLASSIFIED

5. COMMENT: THIS IS THE STANDARD TYPE COMMUNIQUE WHICH PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF INSISTS ON WHENEVER HE IS ABLE TO ENTICE A SENIOR OFFICIAL FROM ANOTHER GOVERNMENT INTO VISITING MALTA. MINTOFF'S TWO PET PROJECTS, "PEACE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN" AND "THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" FEATURE PROMINENTLY, AS USUAL. ALSO TYPICAL IS THE REFERENCE TO THE INEVITABLE MALTESE REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THEIR VISITORS.
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PAGE 03 VALLET 00104 02 OF 02 241703Z

PRESS REACTION TO THE VISIT ALSO HAS BEEN PREDICTABLE.

THE PRO-MINTOFF MALTA NEWS PRAISED "MINTOFF'S BRAINCHILD"
-- THE "GENUINE AND SINCERE ASPIRATIONS OF THE TMEDITERRANEAN
PEOPLES (TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS AND PEACE) THROUGH THE
EVENTUAL REMOVAL OF ALL FOREIGN MILITARY BASES FROM THE
AREA" -- AND "ARDENTLY HOPED" THAT SPAIN WOULD JOIN MALTA
IN THIS QUEST. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE INDEPENDENT, PRO-
WESTERN SUNDAY TIMES OF MALTA POINTED OUT THAT THE
SPAISH GOVERNMENT HAD LEFT "NO DOUBT AS TO THEIR
INTENTIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL
INSTITUTIONS OF WESTERN EUROPE, INCLUDING NATO," WHILE
SEEKING PEACE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. THE TIMES, THEREFORE,
ADMONISHED MINTOFF'S GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW SPAIN'S MODEL
IN SEEKING AN ANSWER FOR MALTA'S SECURITY REQUIREMENTS
AFTER 1979. THIS LATTER SUGGESTION IS NOT LIKELY TO
PLEASE MINTOFF VERY MUCH. END COMMENT. LAINGEN

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